RULES

AND

CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

SOCIETY

Of the SONS of

ST. GEORGE.

PHILADELPHIA:

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INTRODUCTION.

WERE we to trace their Origin to that primeval Pair, with whom the Author of Nature completed the grand Work of the Creation, we ſhould find all Mankind related to each other. Even at this remote Period, when the Sons of Adam are diſperſed through the World, differing in Complexion, Cuſtoms and Manners, the civilized Part of his Deſcendants ſtill retain a Kind of *fraternal Affection*, and are prompted by Humanity and Benevolence, to relieve the *Diſtreſſes* and ſolace the *Sorrows* of their UNFORTUNATE FELLOW MORTALS, in whatever Clime or Country they drew their firſt Breath. *Pity*, *ſocial Love* and *Charity* are CITIZENS of the WORLD, and extend their

benign Influences to the whole human Race: Yet theſe *Heaven-born* Virtues, have *Bounds* preſcribed to them, as to the radiant *Lamp of Day*, which ſhines with but a feeble Beam upon Countries remote from its Path, while with redoubled Vigour, it *chears*, *enlightens* and *enlivens* thoſe, more immediately in its Preſence.

MAN, however boundleſs are the Deſires excited in him by Benevolence and ſocial Affection, is ſtill limited in his Abilities and Capacity; and though his *Wiſhes* may incline him to be ſerviceable to *all* his Fellow-creatures, he ſoon diſcovers, that he has it in his *Power* to be of Uſe but to a *very few:* Conſcious of this, he begins with thoſe to whom the *Ties* of *Blood* have more immediately connected him, and widens the Circle as far as his Abilities will permit. Among the Objects which preſent themſelves for his Aſſiſtance and Relief, after his particular Relatives and Friends, his COUNTRYMEN are his peculiar Care. His Predilection for them is by no means the Effect of Narrowneſs of Sentiment, but proceeds from the ſame laudable Motives, which, ever ſince the Eſtabliſhment of civil Society, have induced good Citizens, not only TO LOVE, but if Occaſion required, TO DIE for their Country. *Po-*

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licy has even been made Uſe of to encourage this *patriotic Benevolence*, and, in ſome States, Honours and Advantages have been decreed to thoſe, who ſaved the Life of a Citizen. Equally praiſe-worthy with preſerving his Life, muſt it be, to reſcue a Fellow-citizen from the Iron Hands of Penury and Want; nay in ſome Caſes perhaps more ſo, for *Death* is often more eligible than a *Life of Wretchedneſs*.

MEN of Merit are to be found in almoſt every Nation; but Mankind in common prefer the meritorious of *their own*, to thoſe of *any other* Country. We cannot extend our Beneficence *univerſally*, and therefore muſt ſelect the Objects of our Charity from the general Claſs of Mankind, *by ſome Rule or other*. In forming this Rule, we are led to ſelect thoſe of our own particular Nation, not only from a natural Deſire every Man has to *relieve them*, but becauſe Experience teaches us, that his Countrymen are the firſt, to whom a Stranger in Diſtreſs, thinks of applying for *Relief*.

NATIONAL *Attachments* and *Prejudices* are for the moſt Part idle and unneceſſary; and when they operate ſo far, as to make us injure or deſpiſe Perſons born in a different Country from ourſelves, they are indeed very reprehenſible.

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But although national Diſtinction ſhould on *moſt* Occaſions be avoided, yet the Neceſſity of forming the preſent Society is *one Proof*, that on *ſome* Occaſions it may anſwer the beſt Purpoſes. Numbers of Engliſhmen have arrived in this City, and being diſappointed in their Expectations, have been reduced to the loweſt Ebb of Diſtreſs; and not knowing where to apply for Relief or Advice, have ſunk into Ruin almoſt unnoticed, when, perhaps, a little good Counſel, or a ſmall pecuniary Aſſiſtance, would have ſaved them from Deſtruction, and made them uſeful Members of Society.

LEST ſuch melancholy Inſtances of Wretchedneſs ſhould happen for the future, it is thought proper by the Subſcribers, to form themſelves into an Aſſociation by the Name of "*The* "SOCIETY *of the* SONS *of* ST. *GEORGE*, "*eſtabliſhed at* Philadelphia, *for the* ADVICE "*and* ASSISTANCE *of* ENGLISHMEN *in* "DISTRESS:" And this, not for the Purpoſe of keeping alive any inviduous *national Diſtinctions*, which ought particularly to be avoided between the different Nations which compoſe the Britiſh State in America, where, all the Freemen (from whereſoever they originally migrated) are BRETHREN, FRIENDS and COUNTRYMEN, but merely that unfortunate ENG-

LISHMEN,

LISHMEN, and eſpecially thoſe who are Strangers in America, may know where to apply for Countenance and Aſſiſtance.

IT is therefore agreed, by the Subſcribers, that they, and each of them, will become Members of the ſaid Society, and be ſubject to the following RULES and REGULATIONS for the Conduct and good Government thereof.

RULES AND CONSTITUTIONS, OF THE SOCIETY of the SONS of ST. *GEORGE.*

RULE I. *Of the Society's* NAME, *the* MEMBERS *thereof, and the Society* SEAL.

THAT this Society be called "*The* "SOCIETY *of the* SONS *of* ST. "*GEORGE, eſtabliſhed at* Philadelphia, *for the* ADVICE *and* ASSISTANCE *of* ENGLISHMEN *in* "DISTRESS:" And that no perſon be admitted a member of this ſociety in future, unleſs he be a native of that part of Great-Britain, called England, or unleſs his father be an

Engliſhman. That, the mode of chooſing members be by ballot, at a Quarterly Meeting of the ſociety, in the preſence of the Preſident or Vice-Preſident, who ſhall decide all diſputes relative to the conduct and propriety of the electors and election: And no perſon ſhall be admitted a member of, or be introduced into the ſociety, unleſs he be elected by at leaſt two thirds of the members, preſent at ſuch Quarterly Meeting; and no election of members ſhall be held, unleſs the Secretary has given public notice, at the time of ſummoning the ſociety, that a new member, or members, is, or are to be choſen; and ſuch new member, when ſo choſen, ſhall, before he receives a certificate of his admiſſion, ſubſcribe the ſociety's rules, and pay into the hands of the Treaſurer, a ſum not leſs than *Thirty Shillings* (which ſum every ſubſcriber hereto agrees to pay forthwith) and after ſuch payment, he ſhall receive a certificate of his admiſſion, ſigned by the Treaſurer and Preſident or Vice-Preſident, and under the ſeal of the ſociety. That the members ſhall be claſſed into Reſident and Honorary; the firſt compoſed of ſuch as reſide in this city, or within ten miles thereof, and the latter of ſuch Engliſhmen, or Sons of Engliſhmen, who being non-reſidents, ſhall be

be admitted members, and preſent the ſociety with a ſum not leſs than *Thirty Shillings*. That a common Seal be provided, with the Arms of England engraved thereupon, the Creſt, St. George and the Dragon: At the top, the Words "LIBERTAS ET NATALE SOLUM." and at the bottom, "I WAS A STRANGER "AND YE TOOK ME IN."

II. *Of the* OFFICERS *of the Society.*

THERE ſhall be choſen, by holding up of hands, on every St. GEORGE's Day, or on ſuch day or time previous thereto as ſhall be agreed upon by the majority of the members at the Quarterly Meeting immediately preceding St. George's Day, a *Preſident*, *Vice-Preſident*, *Treaſurer*, *Secretary*, *a Committee of four Perſons*, to be called *Stewards*, and a *Meſſenger* to ſerve in the ſeveral capacities hereafter pointed out, for the year enſuing ſuch their election.

III. *Of the* DUTY *of the* PRESIDENT, *and the Members with Reſpect to him.*

THE Preſident ſhall preſerve good order and decency at all meetings of the ſociety; regulate the debates, and, in caſe of an equality of voices or votes on any conteſted matter,

ſhall finally decide the ſame; but ſhall not otherwiſe interfere further than for the regulation of the diſputes, and preſerving good order. He ſhall alſo preſide at all entertainments and meetings of the ſociety; and ſhall be treated by all the members with the greateſt deference and reſpect, on pain of any rude or unruly member being ſubject to ſuch fine as the majority of the ſociety ſhall ſet, not exceeding *Ten Shillings*, or even of expulſion, if ſuch majority ſhall think proper. The Preſident ſhall alſo have power to call a meeting of the ſociety, on convenient notice, in ſuch manner as he ſhall think beſt.

IV. *Of the* VICE-PRESIDENT.

In the abſence of the Preſident, his duties and authority ſhall devolve upon the Vice-Preſident, who ſhall be ſupported by the members in the exerciſe of ſuch duties and powers. The Vice-Preſident is to ſign and allow of all orders on the Treaſurer, for the payment of all ſums of money under *Ten Pounds*, to be diſtributed or paid, between any meetings of the ſociety for charitable purpoſes or otherwiſe: But if the money ſhall be ordered to be paid by the majority of the ſociety, the Treaſurer ſhall be authorized, (in caſe of the Vice-Preſident's refuſal to ſign the order) to pay the ſame on a cer-

a certified copy of the vote of the ſociety. ſigned by the Secretary. The Vice-Preſident ſhall have the cuſtody of and control over the common ſeal, unleſs in caſe of a vote of the majority of the ſociety, when he ſhall be obliged to affix or permit the ſeal to be affixed. He ſhall alſo direct, (with the concurrence of the Preſident, if the Preſident chooſes to interfere) the place of meeting at either the Quarterly or Annual Meetings of the ſociety; and ſhall ſend timely notice to the Secretary of ſuch place, which ſhall be within the city of Philadelphia. The Vice-Preſident ſhall not ſign, or the Treaſurer obey, any order for a ſum of money exceeding *Ten Pounds*, without the ſame ſhall be directed to be paid by a majority, at a Quarterly or Annual Meeting.

V. *Of the* TREASURER.

The Treaſurer ſhall have the cuſtody of all the papers, money, goods and effects, (except the book of minutes and other papers, directed to remain with the Secretary) belonging to the ſociety; which he ſhall ſafely preſerve and keep for their uſe. He ſhall pay all orders drawn by the Vice Preſident, or in purſuance of the order of the ſociety as aforeſaid; and ſhall manage the ſtock to the beſt advantage, for

for the benefit of the ſociety. He ſhall keep fair and regular books of accounts during his adminiſtration, and ſhall render a true account of all monies and effects received by him belonging to the ſociety; which account ſhall be liable to the inſpection and control of the majority of the ſociety, who ſhall and may approve or diſallow any charges or diſburſements therein contained. At the end of his year he ſhall deliver over to the ſucceeding Treaſurer, all the books, money, papers, and property which he had received belonging to the ſociety; and ſhall give bond to the Preſident and Vice-Preſident, (who ſhall be Truſtees of the ſame for the uſe of the ſociety) in double the value of the ſociety ſtock, conditioned for his the ſaid Treaſurer's faithful obſervance of all the rules of the ſociety relative to his duty. The ſaid Treaſurer to be excuſed in caſe of fire or other unavoidable accidents. The Treaſurer ſhall alſo collect all fines incurred by any members and account for the ſame, and ſhall be allowed any expence he may be at in the collection thereof.

VI. *Of the* SECRETARY.

THE Secretary ſhall provide a book, wherein he ſhall fairly and regularly enter all the rules

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and regulations of the ſociety, with a regiſter of the names of the members, and careſully minute down and record all the proceedings of the ſociety, at any of their meetings. He ſhall make out the certificates of admiſſion of the members, ſummon the ſociety or cauſe them to be ſummoned, when directed by the Preſident or Vice-Preſident as aforeſaid, receive all petitions for charity and deliver them to the Preſident, Vice-Preſident, or committee of four, and keep an account of the diſtribution directed to be made of all monies, and generally do all the writing and neceſſary buſineſs of the ſociety, which from time to time ſhall occur: And ſhall deliver over to his ſucceſſor all the minutes and papers which he ſhall have in his cuſtody: And ſhall be allow'd and paid by the Treaſurer, all his reaſonable expences incurred in the ſervice of the ſociety. The Secretary ſhall alſo, after every meeting, furniſh the Treaſurer with a liſt of fines due from any members,

VII. *Of the* STEWARDS *or Committee of Four.*

The Committee ſhall with the conſent of the Preſident, Vice-Preſident, and Treaſurer, or any two of them, diſtribute any ſum or ſums in

in charities, between the times of quarterly meetings, provided ſuch diſtribution does not in the whole exceed *Ten Pounds*, or *Five Pounds*, to any one perſon. They ſhall diſtribute no charity but to Engliſhmen, or ſons of Engliſhmen, or their widows and children, nor ſhall any be entitled thereto, but ſuch as are not entitled to receive relief from the overſeers of the poor of this city. They, or either of them, ſhall wait on all ſtrangers who are Engliſhmen or ſons of Engliſhmen, and if they are of ability requeſt their contributions to the ſociety. They ſhall provide entertainments for the ſociety, and ſettle the bills on all public occaſions.

VIII. *Of the* MESSENGERS.

The Meſſenger ſhall be directed by the Treaſurer and the Secretary, who ſhall employ him to carry the notices to the Members of the ſociety, and to collect in the fines and quarterly contributions; he ſhall alſo attend on public occaſions, and receive ſuch ſalary or compenſation for his trouble, as the Vice-Preſident, Treaſurer, Stewards and Secretary, ſhall think adequate.

IX. *Of Officers dying, or refuſing to ſerve.*

If any of the Officers of the ſociety ſhould happen to die, or remove out of the province, others ſhall be choſen in manner aforeſaid, to ſerve the remainder of the year; and if any member be choſen an Officer, and refuſe to ſerve, he ſhall forfeit and pay to the ſociety ſtock *One Guinea.* And if any Officer be neceſſarily abſent at any meeting, another ſhall be choſen *pro hac vice* in his room, unleſs the Officer next in degree ſhall be preſent, as in that caſe he ſhall do his own, and the duty of the Officer abſent.

X. *Of the* MEETINGS *of the Society, and the* Expence *thereof.*

The ſociety ſhall have ſtated Quarterly Meetings, one whereof ſhall be their Annual Meeting on St. *George*'s day; and Special Meetings when the ſame ſhall be directed by the Preſident, Vice-Preſident, or the Committee, with the concurrence of the Preſident, or Vice-Preſident. The Quarterly Meetings to be on every the *Twenty third* Days of *April*, *July*, *October*, and *January*, in every year, unleſs either of the ſaid days ſhall happen on a Sunday, then the ſaid meetings ſhall be held on the next

ſucceeding day. *Forty Shillings* to be paid towards the expences of Quarterly Meetings out of the ſociety ſtock, and the bill ſettled at eleven o'clock in the evenings of ſuch meetings. Every member preſent on St. *George*'s day, ſhall pay his club. Every reſident member abſenting himſelf from a Quarterly Meeting, ſhall pay to the Treaſurer the ſum of *Two Shillings* and *Six Pence*, as a fine for ſuch abſence at a Quarterly Meeting, and *Five Shillings* for abſenting himſelf from an Annual Meeting, unleſs ſuch abſenting member ſhall give to the members at their next Quarterly Meeting, a reaſonable excuſe to be approved of by the majority then met for ſuch his abſence. Honorary members to be exempted from any fines for abſences.

XI. *Of the raiſing and diſtributing the Society* STOCK.

Besides the ſubſcriptions of members on admiſſion, it will be found neceſſary that ſome further proviſion ſhould be made for raiſing a fund for the exigencies of the ſociety; therefore, over and above their ſubſcriptions, every member ſhall contribute and pay the ſum of *Five Shillings* quarterly, during every year. For two years from this date, not above one

fourth

fourth of the ſtock, which ſhall appear to be in the preſent Treaſurer's hands at the annual ſettlement of his accounts, ſhall be diſtributed in charities or otherwiſe, the next ſucceeding year; and after that time ſuch part as the ſociety or a majority of them ſhall approve of. As the ſociety do not proceed upon narrow principles, but will aſſiſt their poor countrymen in a way which will be alſo advantageous to the community, artificers and manufacturers coming into this province, and being natives of England, or ſons of Engliſhmen, ſhall be encouraged and aſſiſted by the ſociety, more abundantly than thoſe poor people who are not of any trade or calling. At leaſt three fourths of the ſociety ſtock ſhall be put to intereſt by the Treaſurer, for a term not exceeding one year. The ſecurities for the ſum or ſums ſo lent, to be taken in the name of the then Preſident, or Vice-Preſident, and it ſhall be expreſſed on the back of the bonds, or ſecurities, that the money lent is the property of the ſociety, which endorſement ſhall be ſigned by the Preſident, or Vice-Preſident. No ſum above *Ten Pounds* ſhall be given in charity, without the expreſs order of the majority of the ſociety at a Quarterly, or Special meeting. And generally the diſtribution and diſpoſal of all ſums above *Ten Pounds* muſt be left to the future judgment of

the ſociety, who will determine according to the ſtate of the funds. No ſum to be let out at intereſt, but upon real ſecurity.

XII. *Of the Deportment of the Members during the time of doing buſineſs.*

THAT no member while the Preſident is in the chair ſhall interrupt the buſineſs, by talking on any other ſubject than that then before the ſociety, on pain of forfeiting (being reprimanded for the firſt offence) the ſum of *Two Shillings* and *Six Pence* for the ſecond offence.

XIII. *Of the collecting the Fines and quarterly Contributions.*

ALL fines and quarterly contributions to be paid to the Treaſurer, or Meſſengers, on demand, and delinquents to be reported to the next Quarterly Meeting; and if after notice by direction of a Quarterly Meeting, they refuſe, or neglect to pay before the next Quarterly Meeting, after ſuch notice, he, or they ſo neglecting or refuſing, to be deemed no longer a member or members of the ſociety, until he, or they ſhall pay the arrears due, and at a Quarterly Meeting give a reaſonable excuſe for his neglect, or refuſal.

XIV.

XIV. *Of the Expulſion of Members, and the mode of altering the foregoing Rules.*

No member to be ſtruck off the ſociety liſt unleſs at leaſt twenty perſons be preſent at the meeting: And the majority of the ſociety ſhall give their aſſent before any alteration ſhall be made in the above rules, which ſhall be deemed and taken to be the fundamental laws of the ſociety.

THE above are true Copies from the original Rules and Conſtitutions entered into, agreed upon, and ſubſcribed by the ſeveral members of the Society, on St. GEORGE's *day, the 23d of April laſt. They are now publiſhed by order of the Society at their Quarterly meeting, held the 23d day of July laſt.*

RICHARD PETERS, junior.

Philadelphia, Sept. 23, 1772.

LIST

OF

MEMBERS,

OF THE

ST. *GEORGE'S* SOCIETY.

THE Honourable RICHARD PENN, Esq;
Lieut. Governor of *Pennsylvania*, &c.

Richard Peters, D. D. *President.*

Mr. Robert Morris, *Vice-President.*

Mr. Daniel Rundle, *Treasurer.*

Richard Peters, jun. Esq; *Secretary.*

William Parr, Esq;
Dr. John Kearsley,
Mr. Richard Footman,
Mr. Thomas Foxcroft,
} *Stewards.*

A

Mr. Matthias Aſpden,
Mr. Charles Allen,
Mr. William Adcock.

B

Doctor Thomas Bond,
Doctor Phineas Bond,
Mr. John Baynton,
Mr. John Baron,
Mr. Joſeph Bullock,
Doctor Robert Baſs,
Mr. James Budden,
* Edward Barrett, Eſq; of *Jamaica*,
Mr. Thomas Bowlſby,
Mr. Richard Bache,
Mr. Jonathan Brown,
Captain Joſeph Blewer.

C

* Alfred Clifton, Eſq; of *Nottinghamſhire*,
* Revd. Mr. John Carter, of *Barbados*,
Mr John Coanes,
Captain Iſaac Caton,
Captain James Caton,
Mr. Edward Cutbuſh.

D

Mr. William Drewry,
Doctor John Day.

E

Mr. Emanuel Eyres,
Mr. Jehu Eyres.

F

John Foxcroft, Eſq;
Mr. Mark Freeman.

G

* Mr. John Glover,
Mr. Thomas Goodwin,
Mr. George Goodwin,
Doctor George Glentworth.

H

Mr. Iſaac Hazlehurſt,
Mr. William Hiorn,
Mr. John Heaton,
* Mr. Amos Hayton, of *London*, Merchant,
Revd. Mr. Robert Harding,
Captain William Heyſham,

Captain

Captain John Hazlewood,
* Mr. Nathaniel Hyde, of *Manchester*, Merchant.

J

Mr. Francis Jeyes,
Mr. John Jennings,
* Mr. William Haughton James, of *Jamaica*,
Mr. Samuel Jefferies,
Mr. James Johnston.

K

* John Kidd, Esq;

L

Llynford Lardner, Esq;
* Lieut. John Lennox, 21st. Regiment,
Mr. William London.

M

* Captain John Mawbey, 18th Regiment.
Mr. Thomas Murgatroyd.

N

George Noarth, Esq;

P

* Doctor William Pemberton, 21ſt Regiment,
Mr. John Philips,
Mr. William Pollard.

R

Mr. Thomas Roaker,
Mr. George Rundle,
Mr. Richard Rundle.

S

* Mr. Charles Starton,
* William Snell, Eſq;
Mr. Anthony Stocker,
Mr. William Sitgreaves,
Captain James Sparks,
Mr. Joſeph Stanſbury,
* Mr. Robert Sherman, *South-Carolina*,
Mr. Thomas Savadge,
Revd. Mr. William Stringer,
Doctor William Smith.

T

* Mr. John Tyler,
Mr. Godfrey Twells,
Mr. Peter Turner.

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W

Hon. Thomas Willing, Esq;
Mr. Richard Willing,
* Mr. Drewry Wake,
Mr. Thomas Charles Williams,
Mr. John Williams,
Mr. George Wescotte,
Mr. Thomas West.

Y

Mr. Thomas Yorke.

☞ *Those marked thus* * *are* Honorary Members.

A true Copy,

RICHARD PETERS, *jun.* Secretary.